

Batumi Initiative on Green Economy (BIG-E) Actions by the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC)

Country: Central Asian countries: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan

Implementer: CAREC

Title: Support of the Central Asia Nexus Dialogue: Fostering Water, Energy and Food Security Nexus and Multi-Sector Investment

Focus area 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9: Improve the measurement and valuation of natural capital; Promote the internalization of negative externalities and the sustainable use of natural capital; Enhance ecosystems and ecosystem services as part of ecological infrastructure; Shift consumer behaviors towards sustainable consumption patterns; Promote green and fair trade; Increase green and decent jobs, while developing the necessary human capital; Improve access to services, healthy living and well-being; Promote public participation and education for sustainable development.

Description of the action: The Action offered an innovative approach in order to find effective solutions to the problems of different level. Water-Energy-Food-Environment Nexus (WEFE Nexus). The Action supports establishment and operation of intersectoral working groups, implementation of demo projects and elaboration of investment project ideas to demonstrate applicability and feasibility of WEFE Nexus approach.

Action's timeframe: 2017-2023 years

Type of action: (a) legal, regulatory and policy instruments and c) information, education-based, capacity-building and voluntary instruments.

Economic sectors: sectors, including: agriculture, forestry, water, buildings and construction

Reference instruments and sources, as appropriate:

	For supporting the Water-Energy-Food Nexus approach there are exist: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Nexus Project Portfolio in CA,● Nexus Game,● Nexus demo projects,● over 15 Research and analytic works	https://carececo.org/en/main/activity/projects/NexusPhase2/ https://carececo.org/en/main/activity/projects/nexus/
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Expected co-benefits and impact of the outcome:

Multi-sector thinking and planning investment activities help to optimise resources, see synergies and improve quality of project proposals. Nexus project Portfolio includes 8 projects of regional importance confirmed by countries. It is a ready Portfolio for further elaboration for funds and banks. Nexus Game helps players from different sectors and education levels understand the Big picture of resource interdependence, the roles and concerns of decision-makers from other sectors.

SDGs target(s) that the action may contribute to implement: SDG13 Climate Action, SDG 15 Life on Land and SDG17 Partnerships for SDGs

Recommendations, as appropriate:

It is of crucial importance to attract the attention of national Governments and ministries to apply WEF Nexus-based planning and search for solutions.

The involvement of financial and economic ministries in the WEF Nexus platform demands special frameworks and motivation tools.

There is also a great need for having a permanent, regional, facilitated platform for brain-sourcing, conceptualization and further development of WEF Nexus based projects with an investment component, it should be a platform for specialists, business representatives, development partners, potential investors, to receive and apply new knowledge, tools, and develop professional skills.

Objectively verifiable indicators, as appropriate:

- Nexus based demo projects demonstrate the applicability of WEF Nexus approach in Central Asia for the following problems:
 - To tackle the sedimentation issue at Tuyamuyun Hydro-Complex (TKM-UZB)
 - To reduce the energy consumption by pumping stations (TAJ)
 - To plant saxaul on the dried bottom of Aral Sea Basin (KAZ)
 - To help residents of a remote village in desert area of Turkmenistan to improve access to water for livestock and wild animals, to decrease the land degradation around the village and improve work conditions for shepherds

- Over 15 expert and analytic works + Nexus project portfolio
- Memoranda of cooperation with academies for civil servants and universities
- Regional Steering Committee and two Technical Working Groups, comprising of 15 officials from line ministries and agencies

Partners: WEF related line ministries and experts, local authorities, CA Academic Network, International Financial Institutions (IFIs).

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Additional information on the Nicosia focus of the action:

- **YES, the action is related to the Nicosia environmental theme I: “Greening the economy in the pan-European region: working towards sustainable infrastructure”**

in order to help integrate sustainability into infrastructure planning and delivery, the action promotes the integrated approach and system-level interventions that governments can make to create an enabling environment for sustainable infrastructure.

It contributes to seven “International Good Practice Principles for Sustainable Infrastructure¹”:

- 1. Strategic planning;
- 4. Avoiding environmental impacts and investing in nature;

¹ The “International Good Practice Principles for Sustainable Infrastructure” (as reflected in a subsequent UNEA Resolution UNEP/EA.5/Res.9) set out **ten guiding principles that policymakers can follow to help integrate sustainability into infrastructure planning and delivery:**

1. Strategic planning;
2. Responsive, resilient, and flexible service provision;
3. Comprehensive lifecycle assessment of sustainability;
4. Avoiding environmental impacts and investing in nature;
5. Resource efficiency and circularity;
6. Equity, inclusiveness, and empowerment;
7. Enhancing economic benefits;
8. Fiscal sustainability and innovative financing;
9. Transparent, inclusive, and participatory decision-making;
10. Evidence-based decision-making.

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